

Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

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SSM FOR KONTOS FROM THORNE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT BY DANISH JOURNALISTS

REF: CHARGE DUNNIGAN'S LETTER TO YOU, SAME SUBJECT, MAY 9, 1977

1. AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW OCCASIONS IN THE PAST WHEN FAILURE TO TAKE PROPER PRECAUTION IN BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING PRESS ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM VISITS HERE HAS MADE DIFFICULTIES FOR US WHICH IN MOST CASES WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME. FOR THIS REASON, LOCAL PRESS POLICY HAS BEEN TO HAVE VISITS ONLY WHEN I AM HERE PERSONALLY SO THAT I CAN INSURE THAT THE BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING WILL ELIMINATE AS MANY PRECONCEPTIONS OR AS MUCH MISINFORMATION AS POSSIBLE.

2. THE OCCASION DESCRIBED IN TOM DUNNIGAN'S LETTER WOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN PLACE HAD THE VISIT NOT BEEN APPROVED BEFORE ADVISING ME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HAD I KNOWN THAT THE JOURNALISTS IN QUESTION WERE IN ISRAEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER I WOULD OF COURSE HAVE APPROVED THE VISIT AND WOULD EVEN HAVE MADE THE EFFORT TO DRIVE OUT TO THE SFM TO TALK WITH THEM. I KNOW ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS PERSONALLY AS I HAVE LIVED IN

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DENMARK AND STILL SPEAK SOME DANISH. I HAVE TALKED TO HIM LONG DISTANCE AND HE HAS INDICATED THAT, WHILE SORRY NOT TO SEE SFM, THEIR INTEREST STEMMED FROM PREVIOUS VISITS BY DANISH JOURNALISTS WHO HAD BEEN MOST COMPLIMENTARY IN THEIR REPORTING AND TOLD ME THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED GOOD PRESS IN DENMARK. I HAVE ALSO TELEPHONED THE DANISH EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE MIX UP.

3. THIS IS A SUBJECT (PRESS POLICY) WHICH I AM SURE YOU WILL
WANT TO DISCUSS WITH RAY HUNT AND OWEN ROBERTS WHILE OWEN
IS ON CONSULTATION AND YOU AND RAY MAY WANT TO RELAX THE POLICY
WE NOW HAVE.
THORNE

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